

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2015 4:24 PM
To:
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Subject: Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony
Attachments: 20150511162417_2015-0512 - HFFA Testimony on Bill 13 CD1.pdf

Speaker Registration/Testimony

All fields marked "(*)" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.
Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

Name(*) Robert H. Lee
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Email (*) jolyn@hawaii firefighters.org
Meeting Date (*) 2015-05-12
Council/PH Committee (*) Budget
Agenda Item (*) Bill 13 (2015), CD1
Your position on the matter (*) Support
Representing (*) Organization
Organization Hawaii Fire Fighters Association
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?
(*) Yes

Written Testimony

Testimony Attachment 20150511162417_2015-0512 - HFFA Testimony on Bill 13 CD1.pdf
Accept Terms and Conditions (*) 1

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HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Committee on Budget
Special Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Bill 13 (2015), CD1 Executive Operating Budget and Program
Proposed Amendments to Bill 13, CD1

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. The HFFA represents approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State. We **strongly support** Council Chair Martin's proposed amendment to Bill 13 which increases funding for salaries and positions counts to fully staff a ladder truck for Quint 43.

The Quint for Station 43 (East Kapolei) was purchased in 2010 prior to the completion of Station 43 and we have been requesting this company be put into service since 2013. More so after this administration decommissioned the Fireboat, we have been making a renewed effort and argument to use those Operations positions to staff Q-43 instead of moving them into the bureaus. Despite our objections, the HFD has already relocated five of the Fireboat positions to augment the Training Division. HFD now wants to use the three captain positions to supplement their Administrative Services Bureau at the Headquarters.

The need to staff Quint 43 and put it into service is apparent to HFFA but does not appear to be a priority for HFD. Last week, the staffing shortages that HFFA expected due to Quint 43 not being put into service became a reality. Ten companies responded to the house fires in Makaha. There were other apparatuses assigned to this and neighboring battalions which were either out of service or unavailable to respond for various reasons. This situation left only **one** available ladder company to cover the area from Waiau, up the Waianae Coast and up to the North Shore for a portion of the day. Summer is around the corner and traditionally that is an extra busy season for fire fighters, particularly on the West Coast of Oahu, due to the large areas of arid terrain which is a recipe for brush fires that oftentimes threaten our communities. Again, there is always a need for another ladder truck.

Thank you for your support of this proposed amendment.